THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics data, major items of our exports include plantations, agri and allied products, marine products, ores and minerals, leather & manufactures, gems & jewellery, sports goods, chemicals & related products, engineering goods, electronics, textiles, handicrafts and carpets.

(b) There are no estimates available regarding production of exportable items by different States.

(c) and (d) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, India's exports during April—January, 2000 were valued at US $ 30221 million registering a positive growth of 11.3% over the same period of last year.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust and focus regions.

Vizag Export Processing Zone

1830. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the performance of the Vizag Export Processing Zone in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the performance of the Vizag Export Processing Zone is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert all export processing zones including Vizag into free trade zones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The performance of Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone is, by and large, satisfactory and the export performance of the Zone during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Exports (Rs. crores)
1997-98	0.05
1998-99	18.15
1999-2000 (Upto Feb. 2000)	99.07

(d) and (e) Policy on Free Trade Zones is under consideration of the Ministry.

Growth Centres opened during Eighth Plan

1831. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of growth centres opened during Eighth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which these centres could achieve their objectives;

(c) the number of growth centres proposed during the Ninth Plan Period; and

(d) how many of them would be located in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A list of growth centres approved State-wise during the Eighth Plan and the Ninth Plan is given-in the statement. *(See* below). According to the information furnished by the State Governments, out of the 28 growth centres approved during the Eighth Plan period, distribution of plots has commenced in 8 and investment and employment generated in 5. The remaining growth centres are at various stages of the development.

(d) All the four growth centres proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh had been approved before the commencement of Ninth Plan.